

## Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAJ-01 /065 W

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R 191703Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2157

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, MILI, PO

SUBJ: REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL TO BE SUPREME AFM DECISION-  
MAKING ORGAN

REF: (A) LISBON 1519

(B) LISBON 1393

(C) LISBON 1418

(D) LISBON 3816 SEPT. 6 1974 AND PREVIOUS.

1. THE OFFICIAL DIARIO DO GOVERNO

PUBLISHED MARCH 14 THE TEXT OF DECREE LAW 5/7 ESTABLISHING THE  
REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL. MEASURE MAKES CLEAR THAT REVOLUTIONARY  
COUNCIL TO BE SUPREME ORGAN WITHIN AFM STRUCTURE. IN ADDITION TO  
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THAT INFORMATION PROVIDED IN REFS A-C REGARDING THE COMPOSITION OF

THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, THE DECREE LAW CLARIFIES THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL AND THE OTHER ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT ORGAN, THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (AFM).

2. ASSEMBLY:

THE DECREE LAW STATES THAT THE ASSEMBLY WILL BE COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THREE BRANCHES OF THE ARMED FORCES. THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL "WILL DEFINE ITS COMPOSITION." THE MEMBERS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL FORM PART OF THE ASSEMBLY; THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OR HIS DESIGNATE PRESIDES OVER THE WORK OF THE ASSEMBLY.

3. REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL:

THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MAY FUNCTION AS A WHOLE OR IN SECTIONS. COUNCIL WILL DRAFT ITS OWN INTERNAL REGULATIONS COVERING SUCH MATTERS. DECREE LAW GIVES THE COUNCIL THOSE LEGISLATIVE POWERS WHICH WERE PREVIOUSLY GRANTED TO THE NATIONAL SALVATION JUNTA AND THE COUNCIL OF ARMED FORCES CHIEFS OF STAFF (REF D), AS WELL AS CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS ATTRIBUTED IN PAST TO COUNCIL OF STATE. THESE POWERS TO AMEND OR ALTER CONSTITUTION EXPIRE WITH PROMULGATION OF NEW CONSTITUTION BY CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY. LEGISLATION EMANATING FROM REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MUST BE SIGNED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC TO BE ENACTED.

4. COMMENT: REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL IS THE HIGHEST AFM DECISION-MAKING ORGAN, AND CLEARLY THE MOST IMPORTANT POWER CENTER IN THE COUNTRY TODAY. IT HAS THE AFM MANDADTE TO SELECT THE MEMBERS OF THE LOWER ASSEMBLY. IT IS NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR FROM LAW WHETHER SOME SORT OF AN ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY IS RULED OUT--PRESUMABLY THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL COULD LIMIT ITS POWER TO SIMPLY SPECIFYING CATEGORIES OF PERSONS TO SIT ON THE ASSEMBLY, AND PERMIT THE SERVICES TO ELECT PERSONS TI FILL THE CATEGORIES. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MIGHT CHOOSE TO HEAR OPINIONS OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SERVICES AND THEN PICK THE ASSEMBLY MEMBERS. IT IS WORTH NOTING ALSO THAT THE PRESIDENT'S OK IS NECESSARY TO ENACT LEGISLATION, AND THAT THE COUNCIL'S POWERS TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION WILL CEASE WHEN THE NEW CONSTITUTION IS PROMULGATED.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT REFORM, LAW, MILITARY GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL SITUATION  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Reference:** 75 LISBON 1519  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <21 MAY 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <21 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PINT, MILI, PO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006